CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST 21

FEBRUARY 1978

Castlemaine Wax-flower

President: Mr R. Bradfield
Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove
Secretary: Mrs R. Mills

Monthly meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Castlemaine Education Centre (SEC building, Mostyn St). Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the club's sessions

ORCHIDS OF THE CASTLEMAINE AREA by R. Mills. No 13 of a series.

LADIES TRESSES

SPIRANTHES SINENSIS

Flowering time: Summer, in wet places.

This little orchid, only 12-30 cm high, has been recorded at Sutton Grange in this district. It is said to be widespread, but I do not know of anywhere else where it is to be found in this area.

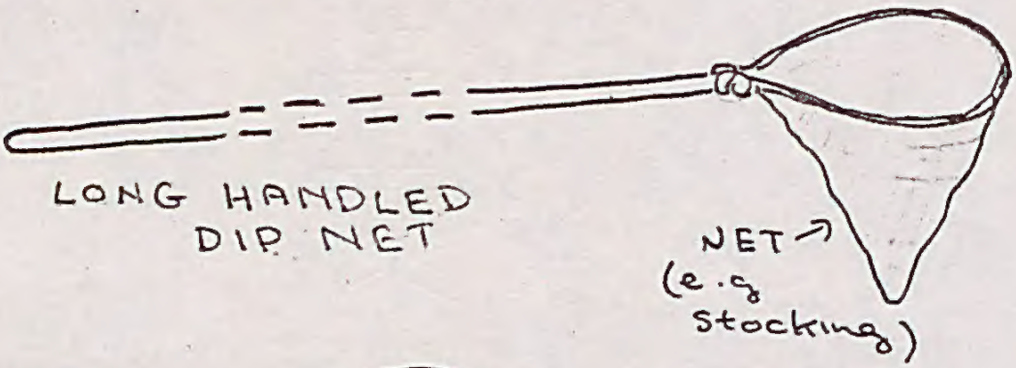
The fragrant pink and white flowers are minute, spiralling up the stem - hence its botanical name. There are several narrow basal leaves.

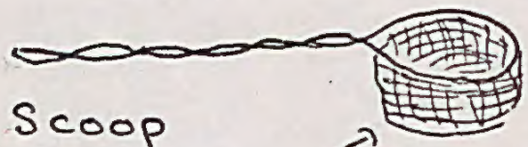
The small bush fly gives an idea of its size.

Pond Life.

This month's excursion is to a local pond. Some of the life to be found in ponds is described in this issue.

Some easy to make equipment can make a pond trip much more interesting. Ice-cream dishes and margerine containers, and plastic bags are handy too.

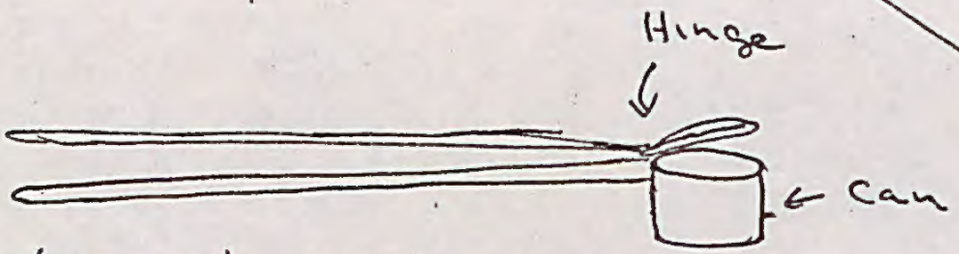




Sieve (e.g fly wire)
(OR USE A KITCHEN SIEVE)

VEGEMITE JAR

Add raw meat
Place on pond bottom (e.g near reeds)
Look for flat-worms



A hinged mud scoop.

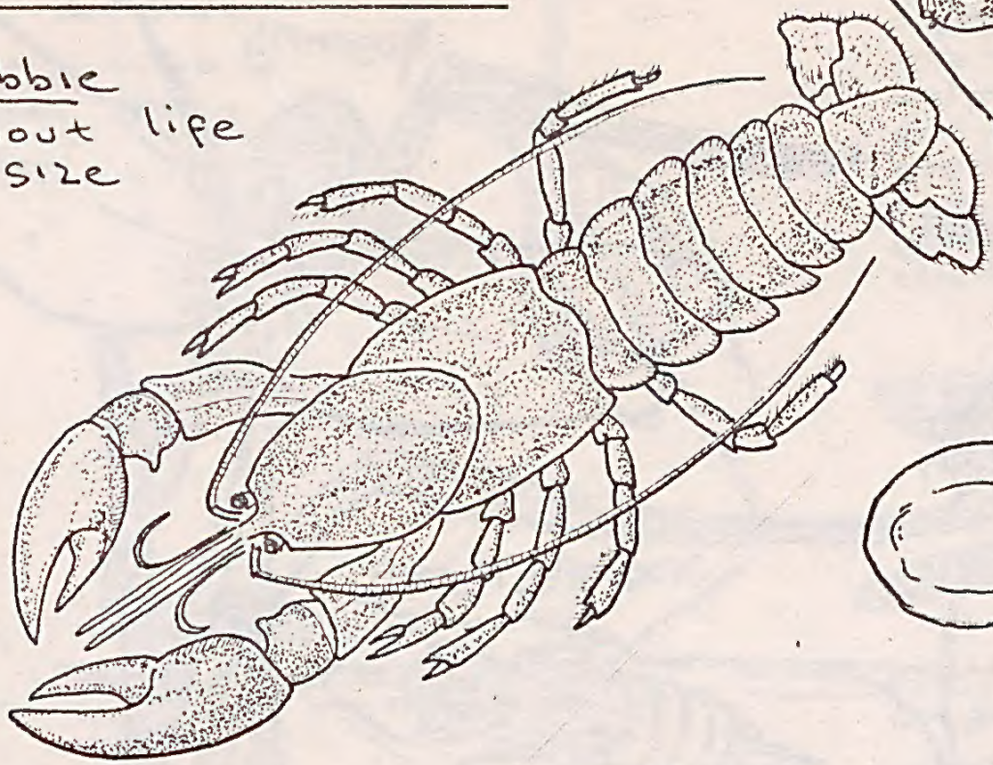
SHELL FISH

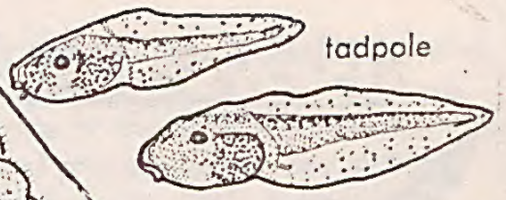
FRESHWATER MUSSEL

WATER SNAILS

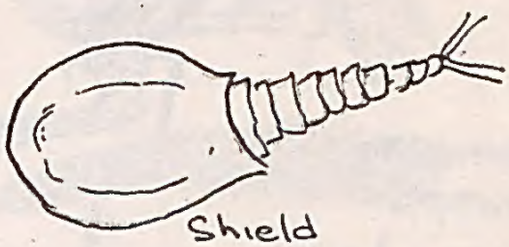
CRUSTACEANS

Yabbie
About life size

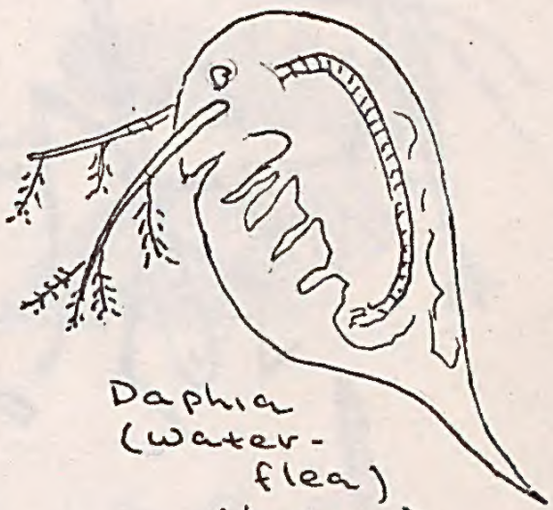




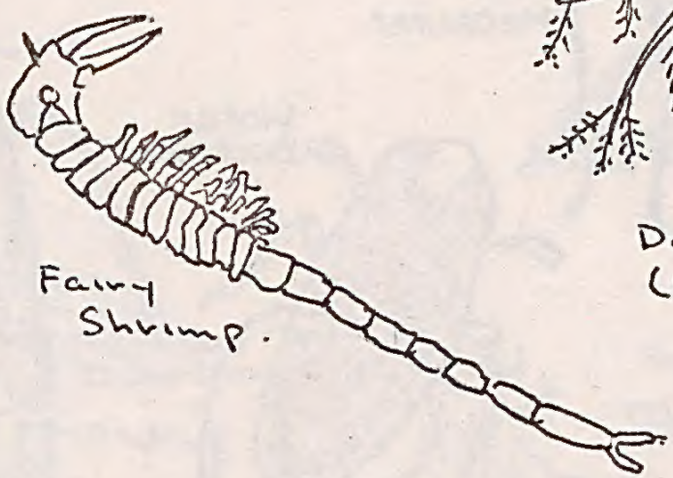
AMPHIBIANS



Shield Shrimp.



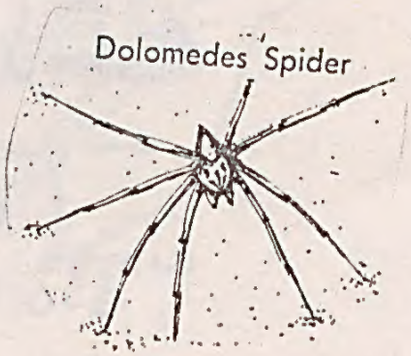
Daphia (water-flea) (¼-5 mm)



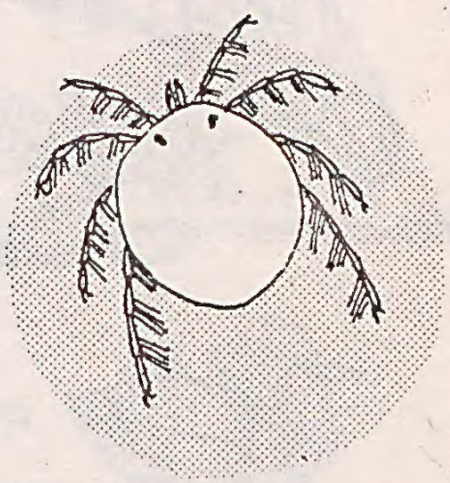
Fairy Shrimp.

Cyclops (1-3 mm)

SPIDERS and TICKS



Dolomedes Spider



Mites

Hydracarina are tiny brightly colored legged animals, related to spiders.

INSECTS

Dragonfly

Damselfly

Damselfly Nymph

Dragonfly Nymph.

Water Measurer

Water Boatman

Backswimmer

Whirligig

Water Strider

Hydra

Not an insect (related to the Jelly fish)

WATER BUG

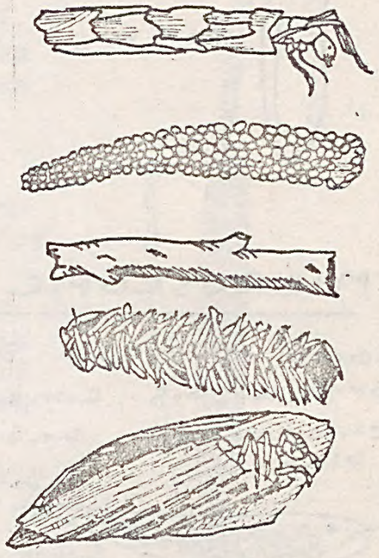
Adults, larvae and pupae may occur

Water Scorpion

Water Strider

TWO VIEWS

Caddisfly larvae build distinctive cases in which to live. They are made of spun silk and covered with sand grains, pebbles, tiny sticks or plant tissues. Some species make a net to catch prey wasted along by the moving water. They prefer swift flowing mountain streams, often sheltering under stones.



MOSQUITO PUPA

MAY FLY

RAT-TAILED MAGGOT

6-20 mm

Mayfly nymph

DRAGON FLY NYMPH

WATER BEETLE

WATER-BEETLE LARVAE

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WORMLIKE ANIMALS

FLAT WORM

8-15 mm

25-40 mm

TRUE WORM

5mm

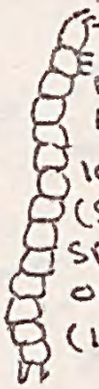
NEMATODE WORM

5-25mm

LEECH

Related to the earthworms

Red coloured worms need little oxygen and so indicate possible pollution



MIDGE LARVA

10-20mm

(Several species occur)

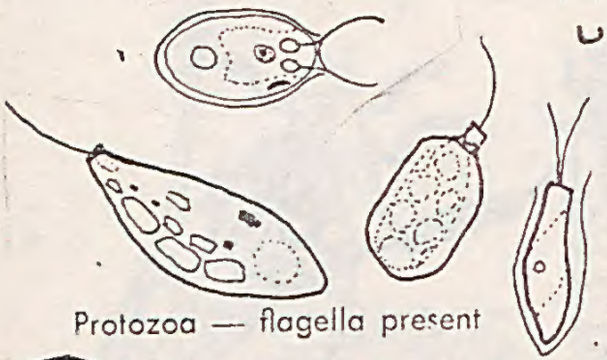
(INSECT)

MICROSCOPIC ANIMALS

Some of these single celled organisms contain green chlorophyll, and hence are plants

Euglena

Flagella are used for swimming - these are found in water ↙



Protozoa — flagella present

Protozoa -- false foot, no cilia

Protozoa — cilia present

Mud animals

Paramecium

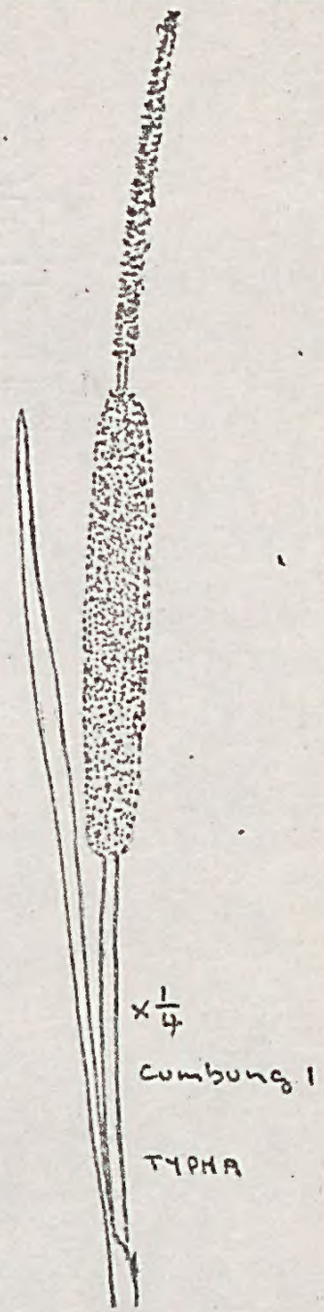
ROTIFERS

A widespread and distinct group

Plants of the Castlemaine District Number 12 of a series

CUMBUNGI (or BULRUSH)

Cumbungi is a well known water weed, but despite this is often confused with the quite different Common Reed. Cumbungi (or Bulrush or Reedmace) is quite distinct and easily recognised by the dense cylindrical spike.



The bottom part of the spike is made up of of closely packed female flowers with brown leaflets (called bracts). The male flowers are above and slightly separated from the female flowers and are much smaller.

It is a native, occurring in all Australian States and New Zealand as well as many other parts of the world. Being a native does not stop it from being a pest however. Its growth at Lake Wendouree in Ballarat and in irrigation districts is not always welcomed by man. Water life would not view it with the same disfavour however, and a mass of cumbungi in flower is a fine sight. Locally it is not very common, the Common Reed is much more abundant.

The local species is Typha domingensis (= T. angustifolia of Willis, 1962). Other typha species occur and are similar.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Treasurer Payments of $23.58c to the Education Centre (Printing) and $22.00 to WVFNCA to the Beauglehole Fund leaves a balance of $1.58.

Beauglehole Fund Members who have promised donations to the fund are asked to pay the Treasurer. Such payments will help restore the club bank balance.

Education Centre The subscriptions for 1978 are now due. All club members are asked to join. Adults $2; students $1.

CLUB LIBRARY ADDITIONS These include the latest issues of the Victorian Naturalist. The Sept/Oct issue has an article "Bat Survey of the Daylesford Area" by club member Harold Parnaby.

CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB PROGRAM

Meetings etc

Frid 10 Feb Annual Meeting. Speaker is Mr John Clements, of Fisheries and Wildlife, Ballarat

Frid 10 March The Summer Bush-land. The program is being arranged by Mr Sitch.

Thurs 30 March Photoflora 78 Screening at Bendigo

Sat 1 April Photoflora 78 Screening at Maryborough

April Meeting The regular April meeting will be replaced by the WVFNCA meeting.

Sat 22 April WVFNCA meeting. Fryerstown Hall.

Frid 12 May To be arranged.

Frid 9 June Eucalypts

Excursions

Sat 11 Feb Pond Life
Meet at Ed. Centre at 1.30.
See page 2 for some things to bring to the excursion.
Leader: Mr Broadway.

Sat 11 March The Summer Bush
Meet at Ed Centre at 1.30.
Leader: Mr Sitch.

Sat April 22 A walk in the Vaughan District, with the WVFNCA. (A repeat of last year's walk).

Sat April 22 Some Geological features of the Castlemaine district. With WVFNCA, an alternative to the Vaughan walk.

Sunday April 23 Mineral Springs. With the WVFNCA, a repeat of last year's trip.

May Muckleford Gorge
June Local Eucalypts.

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OUR FIRST TWO YEARS

The first moves to form a Field Naturalists Club in Castlemaine were made by Mr R. Bradfield, and as a result a public meeting, sponsored by Mr Bradfield, was held early in 1976. Fittingly, Ray was elected inaugural president.

The club has prospered over the two years, and is now firmly established, due in no small part to the leadership of the President, Secretary (Mrs R. Mills) and Treasurer (Mr L. Bransgrove). The Club's Constitution allows for a maximum of a two year term in these positions and so a replacement is required in each.

The present committee is :-
Pres: Mr R. Bradfield. Vice Pres: Mr G. Broadway, Mr G. Sitch
Sec: Mrs R. Mills Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove.
Committee: Mr & Mrs M. Winterbottom, Mr F. Meyer, Miss J Chapman, Mrs B. Singleton, Miss F. McIvor, Mr E. Perkins.

Other positions (e.g. librarian, publicity, records, newsletter) are filled by the committee.